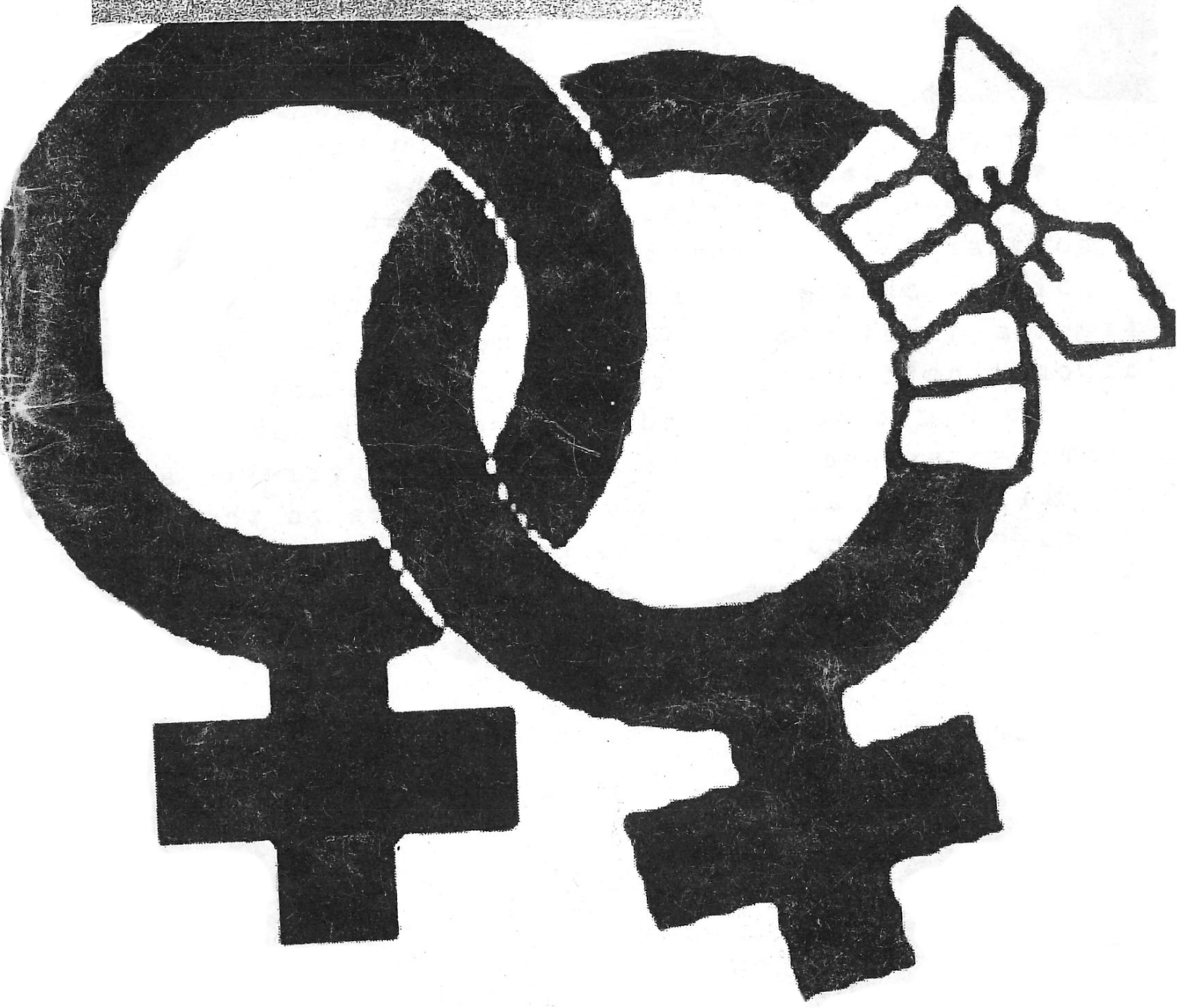
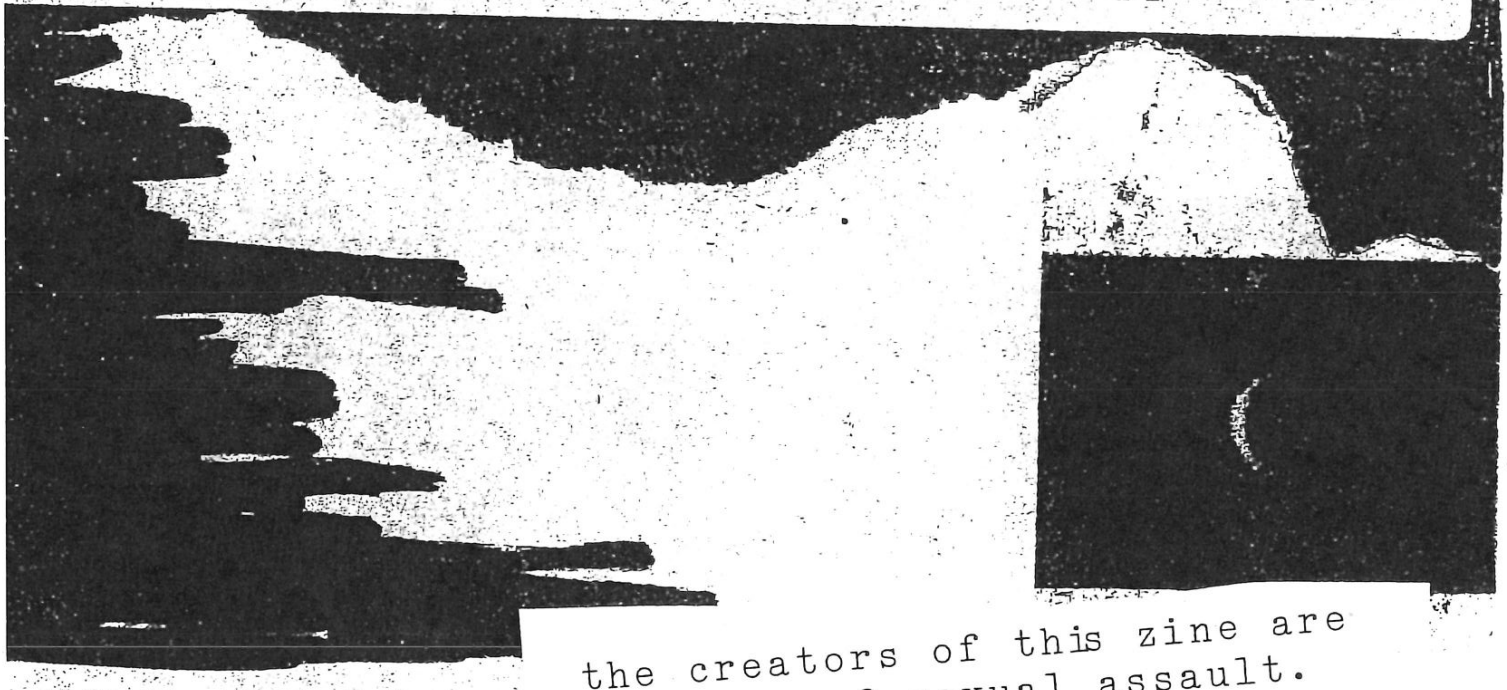
The Day I Wasn't There



AUTONOMY, MISOGYNY & QUEER SPACES

We acknowledge and pay respect to the people of the Kulin nations and the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. We offer solidarity with womyn of all races, religions, colors, classes, sexualities and abilities. We fight against all oppression because the causes of discrimination and oppression operate universally.

To fight sexism and oppression we have to recognise and challenge our own privilege, and listen to and support our sisters in their struggle to end their own particular oppression.



the creators of this zine are suvivors of sexual assault.
it is not okay.

* A Herstory *

*Wom*n's and queer spaces are meant to be spaces where people can exist outside of societal oppression. For queer wom*n this is an interesting proposition because we find that in wom*n's spaces we may still be exposed to homophobia and in queer spaces we may continue to experience sexist oppression.*

The Queer Wom*n's Network began in 2005 as a reaction to the male-dominated nature of the queer space. We fought for and won a Wom*n's Hour within the space and received funding towards some minor projects. This raised many issues at the time but when it came down to it it was just 1 hour. By the end of 2006, queer wom*n were so fed up with spending our time fighting for acknowledgement of wom*n and wom*n's experiences, sexism and misogyny in the queer movement, or just trying to get things done without hindrance, 1 hour was not nearly sufficient and we successfully petitioned the Queer Collective and Monash Student Council to endorse a Queer Wom*n's Only Day in the Queer Space, (every Tuesday.)

The wom*n's only day exists in order for queer wom*n to organise autonomously; to have our experiences and issues heard in a space where they are not trivialised, ridiculed or ignored; to avoid male privilege, power and dominance; to avoid being sexualised, sexually harrassed and sexually assaulted by men; and, to avoid the hostility, hatred, discrimination and ostracism many of us experience in there every other day because we hold feminist values.

We don't consider this a victory. We would much prefer wom*n's (equal, can we still use that word?) inclusion in the queer space, the queer collective and the queer department in general. But as has been proven over at least the past 3 years, wom*n have constantly been ridiculed, humiliated, intimidated and sexualised, and we don't have to put up with it. Pride in male privilege, sexism and misogyny are real within this space. Wom*n's right to autonomous space to organise is also both real and necessary.

Last Thursday the Queer Collective passed a motion to have a referendum on the following question:

'that the wom*n's only day in the Queer Space (currently all day Tuesday) is cancelled from this day forth.'

THE REFERENDUM IS THIS THURSDAY MAY 10.

COME ALONG

TO Queer Wom*n's Day

[Trans-inclusive]

All Day Tuesday

In the Queer Space

1st Floor Campus Centre

http://msa.monash.edu.au/queer/

FOR: a social and support network, to organise politically, share wom*n's experiences, learn -and just hang out!

TRANS INCLUSIVITY

The Wom*n's only day is trans inclusive and we have a principle of inclusion rather than exclusion (we trust that people will respect our autonomy and hence do not police people's gender identity). We respect and celebrate the diversity of women's experiences. We also understand that often trans men are excluded from women's spaces during and after their transition, and that before this time these were places where they too sort support. We welcome these people as well, if they so desire.

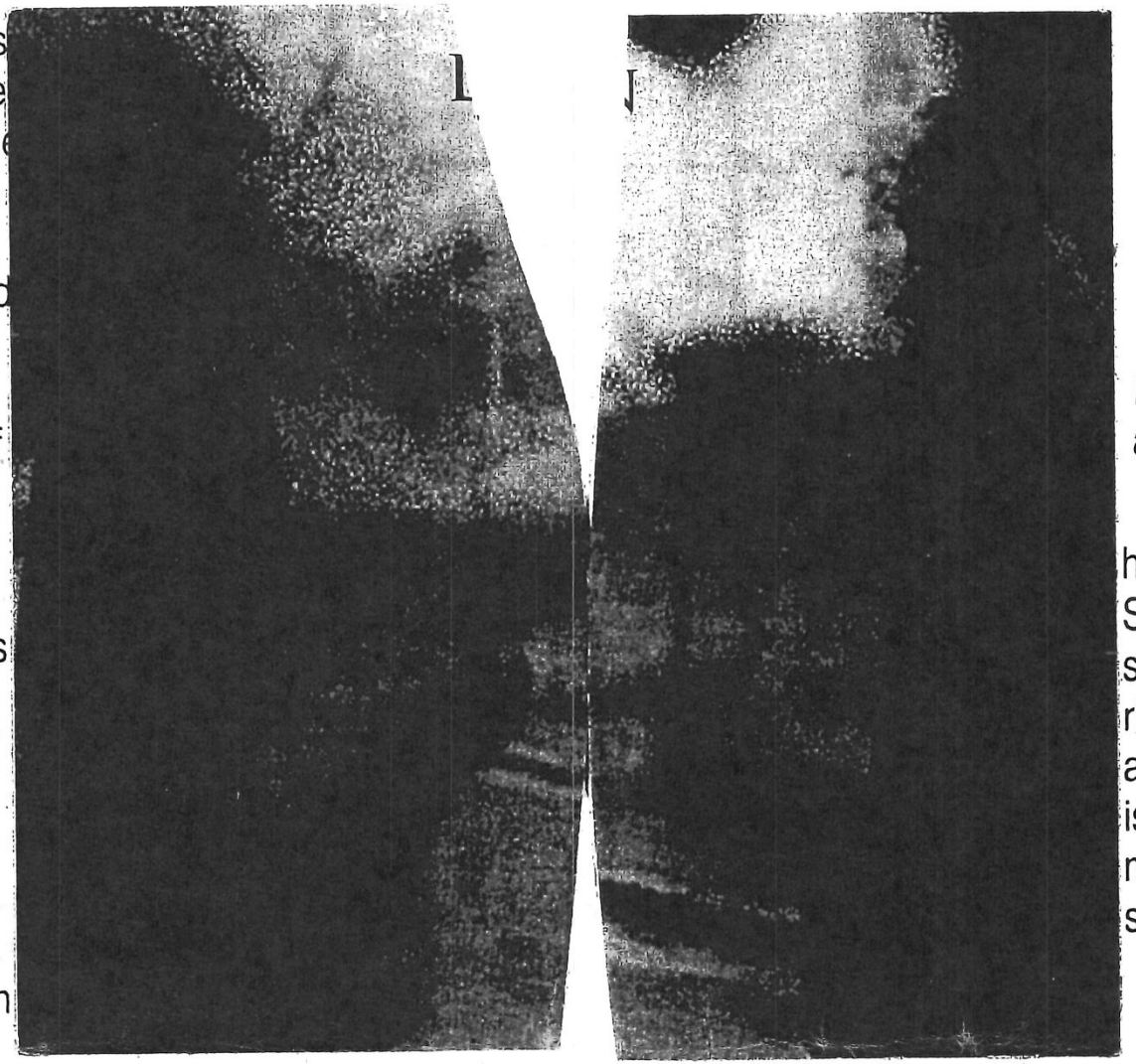
MISOGYNY WILL ~~NOT~~ BE TOLERATED

Graffiti found in the Monash Queer space.

NO WHINING ZONE
HHPD
HOTHEAD PAISAN
HOMICIDAL LESBIAN TERRORIST
©1993 DIANE DIMASSA
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?! I REMEMBER WHEN GIRLS WERE QUIET!!
LIKE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!
?
THIS IS JUSTA BUNCHA LEZZIES, THIS AIN'T THE REAL WORLD! I COULD BEAT THE SHIT OUTTA ALL OF 'EM!
THERE! I FEEL BETTER!
CALL THE ELKS! CALL THE LIONS! CALL THE OIL COMPANIES!
HEY, NOW HOLD ON! I DO THE DISHES EVERY OTHER NIGHT!*
* TRANSLATION. I MUST BE HONORED ABOVE ORDINARY MEN BECAUSE I AM A FEMINIST!!!
I'M JUST A REGULAR GUY DOIN' THE BEST I CAN! WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?*
*I AM BASICALLY UNCONSCIOUS THE LIVING DEAD. I'D LIKE TO DO A BUD LITE COMMERCIAL SOME DAY
YEAH! THIS IS LIKE SAYING THAT ALL WHITE PEOPLE ARE INDEBTED TO THE BLACK RACE!*
* OH, THE GUILT
YEAH! AN' ALL YOU CHICKS DO IS PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE MEDIA!*
* YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE TOO EMPOWERED FOR MY COMFORT LEVELS.

YEAH! IF WE CAN'T RAPE AND MUTILATE, THEN YOU CAN'T HAVE A COMIC BOOK!
HOW DARE YOU IMPLY THAT RAPE IS WRONG IN THE FIRST PLACE!
THIS IS MALE-BASHING!
NOW YOU'RE REALLY GONNA GET IT! BITCHES.
WE DON'T LIKE IT!!
YOU ARE SCREWING WITH THE POWER HIERARCHY AND SCARING US STOP IT IMMEDIATELY!
IT'S OFFENSIVE!!!
YEAH! THAT LAST ISSUE WASN'T FUNNY!!!
ANGRY WOMEN ARE ABSOLUTELY TERRIFYING BEYOND BELIEF TO US. PLEASE DON T
IT'S UPSETTING! WE DON'T NEED TO LOOK AT THAT TO GET THE POINT!!
OH, THE GUILT
STOP ACTING SO HYSTERICAL!
YOU HAVE NO FEELINGS, AND IF YOU DO. THEY DON'T COUNT.
I CAN BUY AND SELL YOU!!
IM ALL FOR WOMEN COMING TO POWER AS LONG AS I'M INVOLVED AND RECOGNIZED!!!
RELAX! REAL WOMEN AINT LIKE THIS!!
I'M NOT PUTTIN' UP WITH THIS!
ME EITHER! WHAT NEXT, EQUAL PAY???
THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF GARBAGE THAT'S DESTROYING THE FABRIC OF AMERICA!!
JUST KEEP THIS SHIT AWAY FROM MY OLE' LADY!
HOW DARE THEY TRY TO CREATE A FALSE IMAGE OF OUR GENDER!!!
WHINE WHINE WHINE WHINE WHINE WHINE
FOR GOD FOR COUNTRY FOR PENIS
GIVE ME HEAD OR GIVE ME DEATH

WE'RE HERE WE'RE QUEER WE WILL NOT DISSAPEAR



As queer wom*n and men most of us know the pain of sexual assault. Not some abstract concept but something we have to carry with us, everyday. I am a queer wom*n that has been assaulted by men. I live in fear everyday about what lives inside of me and what lives outside of me. Rape is the primary weapon of the patriarchy. I personally find it difficult to be around most men because of my experiences, because of the pain I carry with me of my abuse. I have been assaulted frequently in queer venues. The first queer scene I went to was 'Minus 18', an underage nightclub for queers. The only person that propositioned me was a man 'I'm bisexual, are you?'. There was also a drag performance in which the Drag Queens package was basically exposed. I have gone to the peel nightclub where many men have felt it appropriate to be able to touch me in whatever they want. I have been buying a beer at the bar and had some man slobber all over my shoulder and tell me how goodlooking I am. AT A QUEER VENUE, WHERE I GO TO MEET WOMYN. I have a 'friend' from highschool who everytime he sees me at Q&A (queer and alternative) he rub's his crotch against me. Sexism is rife in the queer scene, sexual assault is rife in the queer scene. As a womyn the queer scene is not safe for me. The monash queer space is not safe for me.

A Move Towards Autonomy

Autonomy means freedom from external authority.

Autonomous groups have organized in dynamic collectives with the continuous struggle to remain autonomous – to organize free from state la societal repression etc.

Exclusory policies such as this have long been recognized as necessary to create an *inclusive* environment – both in the Collective and within the group's sphere of influence.

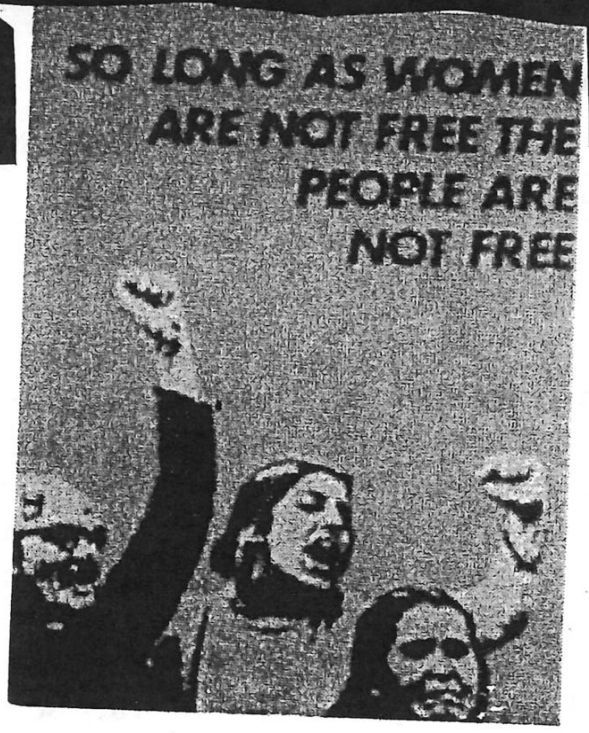
The particular social relations that are generally considered the greatest threat to queer autonomy are hetero-normative, prejudiced ideologies from traditionalist conservative and/or religious backgrounds. These are inescapably linked with the patriarchal structure of society –

Despite the label "autonomous" the Collective has continued to reflect liberal attitudes to societal structure. These attitudes permeate popular culture and society and view 'equality' as being the treatment individuals equally regardless of theircircumstance

Without actively generating autonomy and expelling patriarchal social relation the safe-space is useless.

The struggle for the inclusion of wom*n in the queer space and therefore in queer collective organising on campus has been one of bitter defeat and is symptomatic of a dying autonomy.

ideally a women's day in the queer space would not be needed. but, alas, we do not live in a post-patriarchal, nor post-gendered world. while queer women remain oppressed our collective goal of queer liberation shall never be achieved. we need to stand together in conflict. that is conflict of ideas which are essential for democratic decision making, not conflict of gender which undermines democracy by suppressing voices. i strongly endorse the decision of queer women and men to facilitate a women's day in the monash university student association's queer space, in the hope that such a day will be a step towards not needing one.



RE: The Queer White Men's Lounge

hangout spot for (mostly white) queer men, outside Womyn's Day, the Queer Lounge is a

womyn who express feminist politics or attempt to call out men's misogynistic comments are slandered, humiliated and silenced.

Just as straight people must abstain from interfering in queer autonomy,

so must men abstain from interfering in womyn's autonomy

I would suggest educating the men who abuse the lounge, however we have been trying to do this for years and my throat is sore.

It is my fondest hope that justice and common decency will prevail.

I am disappointed with

the men who have actively

sought to end Womyn's Day.

and the women + men who have let their sisters suffer with their silence.

This time in the lounge is in recognition of that - not only do queer wom*n have to deal with this heteronormative society, we also have to live in a patriarchal society.

SO NICE

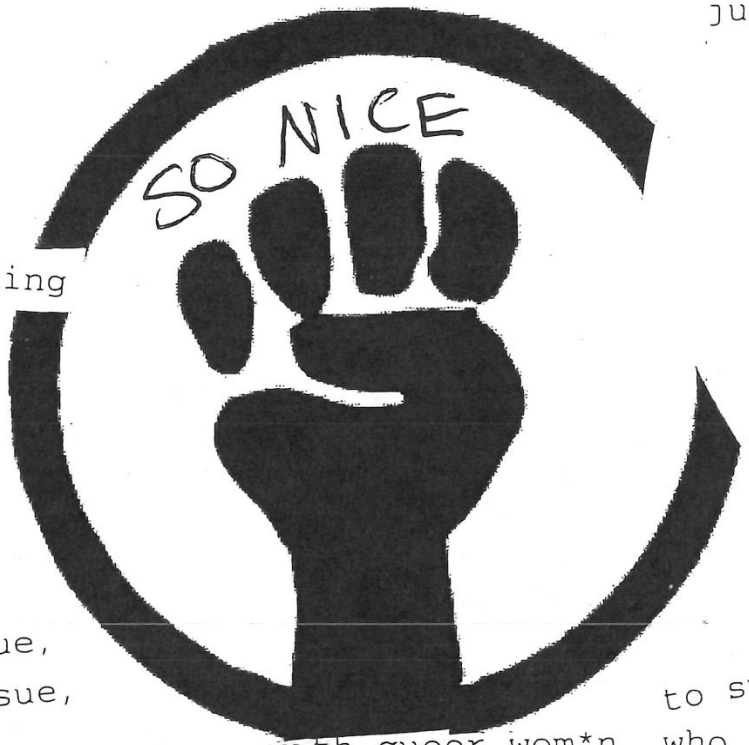
SO NICE

Men don't have to say or do anything offensive, in particular - just sometimes it is

SO NICE

A little understanding from other queers on this issue would be nice

NICE



SO NICE

This is a queer issue, and not a wom*ns issue, to spend time with queer wom*n, who really understand what this feels like.

SO NICE

SO NICE

SO NICE

Why is it always wom*n that should solve the problem?

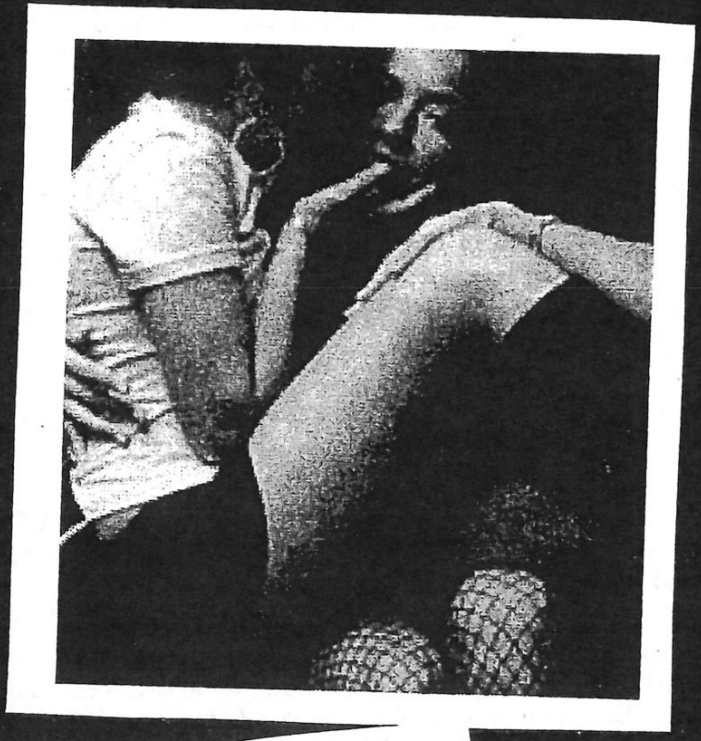
SO NICE

But the point is that some do - and that should be enough

SO NICE

SO NICE

As queer wom*n, we are at higher risk of:



ANXIETY

SELF-HARM

DEPRESSION

DRUG USE

http://quni.org/forum/index.php?topic=71.0

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **January 20, 2007, 03:00:07 PM**

I think the women's room should shoulder equal, if not more, responsability for queer women and times for them. Since the issue seems to be directly stemmed from the radical feminist lobby (as those of us who aren't radical feminists seem to not be for this, in general) I would imagine it makes more sense to hold such a day and associated things in a space more suited to radical feminists, like the women's lounge.

this doesn't address the problem of sexism in queer space. 'Just go next door' isn't the answer

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **la_mauvaise_foi** on **January 20, 2007, 05:47:41 PM**

It is a crock of absolute shit. Without question. If I thought for even a second that it would be used, or that those lobbying for it actually had any need for it, I'd be behind it in a second. But as it stands, we have a group of idiot thugs who think vandalism and intimidation will help matters lobbying for a day that just further serves to alienate those who want to actually be constructive.

we actually want to use the space for political activism.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **January 20, 2007, 09:04:13 PM**

I think this is all a stupid waste of everybody's time (read LMF's post - he says it better than I ever could), and is only going to serve to alienate more and more people from both the queer movement AND the women's movement. Can't we all just learn to play nicely together? Primary school kids do a better job of working in mixed-gender groups than the wom-asterisk-n seem to be able to

someone has to give something up

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **PsychoTeddy** on **January 21, 2007, 08:30:20 PM**

I absolutely, whole-heartedly disagree with the idea and hope that it gets immediately thrown out

If there is to be women's only time, why can there not be men's only time?

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **January 21, 2007, 11:41:10 PM**

Quote
and 1534hours where the space is male dominated
Maybe if the WOMEN CAME IN SOME OTHER TIMES it wouldn't be. I love how the women that do show up there are completely ignored in terms of female presence in the queer lounge; apparently if you're not a radical feminist you're not really a woman? Riddle me that one.

All that aside- I still think this is something the women's department should be taking care of, because, again, in the hierarchy of oppression, straight women are doing better than queer men.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **la_mauvaise_foi** on **January 22, 2007, 04:52:51 AM**

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these are extracts from an online queer students' forum. There were personal attacks made against us that we chose not to reproduce.

To tell anyone that they have no idea of what oppression is just because they happen to not understand the intricacies of insaneland feminazism and make one stupid comment shows how close-minded your group is. Do you honestly think that even one person on this board hasn't faced oppression because of their sexuality or gender at some point? I wish you poor little victim mentality addicts could see that you don't have sole claim.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **January 22, 2007, 05:59:59 AM**

Anyway, when I voted for those people as queer officers, I did it after reading their election speeches (! Shock! Horror! I *read* them!). I voted for them on the understanding that when this women's day crap came up, I would be given timely notice of the meetings and ample opportunity to voice my opinions and register my dissent to the matter. As it turned out, they tried to slip it through during a "2007 brainstorming session" on a 30-something degree day. I chose not to attend that brainstorming session because I'd blacked out from dehydration the day before, and didn't feel up for the half-hour each way bike ride. If I'd known the women's day stuff was going to be voted on, I would have **found** a way to get there for it.

the Queer Department is there for ALL queer students at ALL times.

but because of the problems in the space (that won't be addressed) many people can never use it.

Quote

Lot of racial feminist love to all
and even more to the men that get the idea of a Queer Wom*n's time in the lounge
...interesting. Does that apply to me, since I *get* the ideas behind having the time, I just thoroughly and wholeheartedly disagree with the whole concept and am firmly of the belief that it won't solve anything, and will only lead to MORE antagonism between the rad fems and the rest of us.

us + them (it's a false dichotomy)

separatists' hour

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **January 22, 2007, 09:17:22 AM**

Quote
I would not enter on separatists' day Except possibly with my male friends as part of a protest
As of the moment, that's starting to look like my plan if this thing can't be sauced out diplomatically. If nothing else, it would force certain women to start up an actual dialogue with us instead of throwing rhetoric our way, which does nothing but infuriate people.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **January 24, 2007, 01:01:56 PM**

Quote
But if the male queers are so worry about around 6-13hours per week get a life, timetable your subjects on that day, start a group that meets to look at why the wom*n need this time
How about the wom-asterisk-n starting a group to look at why they need to be such separatists and why they can't interact with half the population simply because of their gender?? How about they discuss why they're so hell-bent on alienating the very people who are most likely to be their closest allies in their struggles? How about looking at how they can work *with* people rather than *against* them? Or is that too hard because of their poor little victim mentality where the whole world hates them and nobody understands and <sigh> it's just not fair. Stop attacking the people it's easy to attack, and start fighting the battles that actually **need** to be fought. You want male-dominated? Try the Engineering faculty.

that's what we are trying to do, we can't do it at other times due to this shit.

yours frustratedly,
Miles

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **thetightbunsofjesus** on **January 29, 2007, 07:08:07 AM**

I think this debate is getting way off topic and becoming way too personal. This has become the let's-bash-'person'-and-feminazis-and-watch-'person'-lash-back thread.

Let's bring the thread back to the debate on 'Wom*n's Day'. As an outsider I have some questions:

Firstly, why do they spell women/woman with an asterix?
Why do some people believe there is a need to have a women's day?
If women's day is so unpopular how did it come into existence?
Has anyone done anything productive to stop women's day from happening?
Where do the Queer Officers stand on this?
If they are 'radicals', or whatever, why did people vote them to become our officers?
Do the radicals and the other queers always fight? And, does it always become and argument of I am more oppressed than you, so there debate?
Do most queers who use the lounge believe in a hierarchy of oppression?
If sexism is such a major issue in the lounge what else has been done to combat this issue?
What are some the other productive techniques have been thought of to tackle this problem?

Cheers,
thetightbunsofjesus

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **January 29, 2007, 07:58:16 AM**

Quote
Why do some people believe there is a need to have a women's day?

it's not a figment of our imagination

My sarcastic answer is because the new female queer officer is dating the former wom*n's officer (who I respect tremendously, don't get me wrong). But there's a lot of gender tension every year in the queer lounge, and some of the wom*n believe the men are hostile to them. Personally, I feel that they get this reaction from the guys because the only time they make contact with them is to lecture them or try to make a point in some other way. I've never felt oppressed in the lounge myself, and I'm hardly the paragon of traditional feminine virtues.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **person** on **January 29, 2007, 08:07:40 AM**

I just ask that people remember that we as Queer asked for a space because we were disadvanated without it (No safe space to be ourselves), why is it any different when Queer Wom*n ask for a time were the space can be safe for them. I know not all wom*n need it.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **January 29, 2007, 09:15:55 AM**

Quote from: thelightbunsofjesus on January 29, 2007, 07:08:07 AM
Why do some people believe there is a need to have a women's day?

Because they feel that the men in the lounge are misogynistic. Although I have yet to hear, even 3rd hand, of any actual instances of misogyny. The closest I've heard are:

"whenever I [a woman] walk into the lounge, they all stop talking and look at me" - uh, they do that to EVERYONE, out of curiosity to see who it is, and then include them in the conversation, and

"there are always more men than women in there" - This is not actually misogyny. This is a matter of logistics. The women's room is right next door, so there is always going to be some sort of time-sharing with the women. And the women who complain about this are the very ones who open the door, look in, then walk away. If only half the women who did that actually walked in instead, you wouldn't have such a gender imbalance.

Oh, and I almost forgot. "The men talk about sex". Well. The space exists so that queers can have a safe space and be themselves, and talk about the things they can't talk about elsewhere. For gay men, as for lesbians, one of the things that's often unable to be discussed outside the lounge is... sex. Hmmm. Surely I'm not the only one who thinks these conversations fall completely within the purview of the lounge?

Quote
If women's day is so unpopular how did it come into existence?
Women's hour came into existence after queer week 04, when a women's lunch was held in the lounge and was packed out. The then female queer officer decided that it would be good to implement a weekly hour. There was a bit of a shitfight, but the men gave in pretty quickly because they still believed at that point that there was a problem with misogyny in the lounge. has this been magicked away

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **la_mauvaise_foi** on **January 30, 2007, 05:16:26 PM**

I would do something productive but years of Monash Queer Collective have left me broken and dispirited. In 5 years I saw very little useful things happen. Lots of fun fights though.

we are trying to do productive things

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **February 07, 2007, 10:51:39 AM**

Losing our equal opportunity exemption is most definitely our QOs fault. There is a red folder in the office with all the details they need, with writing blazoned all over it saying that it's due for renewal at the start of 2007.

Anyway, this "respect our autonomy" crap is... crap. The women of the space do NOT have autonomy. The 'autonomy' essentially means that only QUEERS can dictate how the space is used. Not queer women, or wom-asterisk-n or whatever they fucking want to call themselves, but ALL QUEERS HAVE A SAY IN HOW THE SPACE IS TO BE USED!

this is not true - it actually has.

Wom-asterisk-ns day has not passed the collective, much less committee. Therefore it as yet does not officially exist. If they want to call Tuesday wom-asterisk-n's day, go for it. But there's nothing stopping men (and at the moment, straight men) from using the space on Tuesdays.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **February 21, 2007, 12:30:31 PM**

as queer women we feel the joint oppressions of sexism in the queer movement + heterosexism in the women's

Oh, I totally agree with you. There's a definite problem with heterosexism in the wom*n's room. There's a lot of all sorts of isms in there, actually, which is why I've never been entirely comfortable in there.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **piccolo_rocks** on **February 22, 2007, 12:44:51 PM**

why would a man know what the women's officer is doing

yes as usual the women's officers have done NOTHING (that I know of anyway) to fix this problem, why don't they? Maybe the female queer officer should talk to the women's officer about this problem, I think that would be a good idea, maybe no one's told her it's a problem though...

↳ a women's officer helped facilitate it

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **anonymousbonymous** on **March 28, 2007, 09:36:28 PM**

Quote from: mon on March 28, 2007, 05:26:26 PM
The idea of a queer wom*ns only day in the lounge is not a personal attack on the queer men in the lounge. Queer wom*n face different forms of oppression than queer men - just as colored wom*n face different forms than white wom*n **This time in the lounge is in recognition of that - not only do queer wom*n have to deal with this heteronormative society, we also have to live in a patriarchal society.** Men don't have to say or do anything offensive, in particular - just sometimes it is SO NICE to spend time with queer wom*n, who really understand what this feels like

I'm sorry, but isn't being a queer male in a patriarchal society a problem too?

"Approximately one-fifth of females and one-fourth of males had experienced a bias-related criminal victimization since age 16; one-eighth of females and one-sixth of males had experienced a bias crime recently (in the previous 5 years)."

Source : http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/violence_pre.PDF

Seems to me that queer men are more likely to be victims of hate crimes and need a safe space more than us queer women. NOT crimes against men vs. crimes against women BUT crimes against QUEER MEN vs. crimes against QUEER WOMEN.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **PsychoTeddy** on **March 28, 2007, 09:59:36 PM**

If queer wom*n so desparately want to have time in the space for *just* queer wom*n, well I want damn time to just myself/Miles when he is there/any other transmen on campus. I at time feels completely left out from conversation as its based entirely on homosexual relations/things. So think about the other minorities before carrying on about how much you might want the space. And I agree with whoever posted above me, if you want some specific wom*n only time, feel free to do it somewhere else, there are plenty of other places in the world where you can do it without taking our time away from our space. (By 'our' I mean all queers, inclusive of wom*n)

EDIT -- I realise that we (trans people) could also take our time elsewhere, and we will, but why not give everyone some time to themselves in the lounge, not just wom*n? I'm so god damn tired of this issue. The sooner it ends, the better off everyone will be, regardless of the damn outcome.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **littlesir** on **March 29, 2007, 09:39:07 AM**

Quote from: mon on March 28, 2007, 05:26:26 PM
The idea of a queer wom*ns only day in the lounge is not a personal attack on the queer men in the lounge. Queer wom*n face different forms of oppression than queer men - just as colored wom*n face different forms than white wom*n

Yes, and queer men face different forms of oppression than queer women. I see this argument as supporting a men's day in the lounge just as much as it supports a women's day. There are issues specific to gay men, that they need a time and space to discuss with each other, that they may not feel particularly comfortable talking about in front of women

Quote from: mon on March 28, 2007, 05:26:26 PM
Why is it always wom*n that should solve the problem?

As Gorynna pointed out, it's always the wom-asterisk-n that have to solve the problem because as soon as a <gasp> *man* opens his mouth on the issue, he is uniformly shouted down and screamed at and told that he should never *dare* to tell wom-asterisk-n what they need, that it's up to wom-asterisk-n to tell men how feminism should run, and that men have no right to say anything about the issue, but are only allowed to meekly nod and agree and run along like good little puppy dogs and do exactly what they're told.

You can't have it both ways. You can't demand our input, and at the same time demand that we shut up and let wom-asterisk-n tell us what they need without any of our input!

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **sanguine** on **March 29, 2007, 09:45:49 AM**

Angry little girls throwing tanties.

Grow up. There's so much more to feminism than man hating and being unfashionable. Stop giving real women who want to work with the world a bad name

I was going to post a long rant with lots of feminist discourse to back me up and why I think radical feminism is flawed when compared to liberal feminism but really, I don't discuss political theory with a three year old who wants a lollipop and I'm not going to discuss it with these wom-asterisk-y-?-#-n.

Neither the women nor the men in the lounge respect or care about any of you. Go and start your angry lesbian separatist utopia in someone else's room.

Title **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **piccolo_rocks** on **March 29, 2007, 09:51:59 AM**

bravo Miles, I just hope you're still alive when I next see you

the stupidest comment I've heard about this is that 'you can't criticise a woman for expressing her opinion'

give me a break, anyone has the right to hold an opinion and question/criticise/challenge/agree/disagree with others about theirs whether they're male, female, intersex, gay, bi, straight, queer etc

One could use the same argument to say that you can't criticise a conservative Christian for having an opinion. Of course things can be questioned, I've never heard such nonsense in my life. I think I this might be coming from times in the past where women's opinons were considered less valid, for example, they didn't have the right to vote and while that is still the case in many parts of the world, that is then and this is now. It is those places in the world where women's voices are not being heard where efforts should be applied, not trying to get MORE equality than men here, especially by threats of violence

Now my rant in capitals

IT'S REVERSE SEXISM AND IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT'S HYPOCRISY, YOU DON'T WANT EQUALITY, YOU WANT TO BE MORE EQUAL. WE'RE ALL OPPRESSED, STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT IT AND DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE ABOUT IT.

That is all for now

Title **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **gorynna** on **March 29, 2007, 10:20:53 AM**

Adding one more thing-

Quote from: piccolo_rocks on March 29, 2007, 09:51:59 AM
IT'S REVERSE SEXISM

Nah. It's just sexism. Plain and simple. Radical feminism isn't about equality, it's about revenge, they just like to put it in more jargonistic terms.

Title **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **missp** on **March 29, 2007, 04:26:20 PM**

Personally I can't see the problem. Many of the posts to this topic seem to be a competition on who is more oppressed. Obviously a problem exists whereby a group of queer womyn feel uncomfortable in the space due to what they believe is sexist behaivour by some of the queer men.

Clearly this is a problem that needs serious attention.

I would support times being allocated in the queer space for queer women. At the same time I do understand that queer men would have no access to a safe space which is not ideal. However as long as it isn't most of the time and it allows womyn who feel uncomfortable to enjoy the space then in my view it is fine. I know that as a new Monash student who is at times uncomfortable with my sexual orientation I would use the room during womyn's only time. Further it doesn't matter if the room is jam packed with womyn during this time. Surely we are not going to employ the arguements used by administrations where they argue that if only a small percentage of people use the space then it is not really required. I reject this type of arguement.

I hope people can read this without any hate mail being posted. I'm just expressing a point of view and not trying to attack anybody.

Also, if it is SO NICE to just spend time with queer women why don't you organise some queer women ONLY events and spend time with them at those organised events. Do not impose this lovely queer women gathering on other queers who want to spend time in a SAFE SPACE that is for ALL QUEERS we have used women's day to organise such events

It is not fair or right to discriminate the queer men, because it is NICE to spend time with queer women.
It is not fair or right to discriminate queers with a different sexual orientation / gender identity because it is NICE to spend time with queer women.
It is not fair or right to discriminate other minorities by having a day for only queer women because it is NICE to spend time with queer women.

Yes, it is discrimination. And I don't care what people say, on some level it is sexist, racist etc, etc, etc because it is discrimination.

Quote from mon on March 28, 2007, 05:26:26 PM
Not all queer wom*n feel the need for this space, that has been made clear But the point is that some do - and that should be enough

No that should not be enough Just because some people want something - it should never be enough Especially if it defeats the primary purpose as to why the lounge exists Again, the lounge exists as a safe space for ALL queers

Quote
What's wrong with giving wom*n one day out of that 5?

What's wrong with giving men one day out of that 5?
Isn't equality what we are all fighting for?

OOOOOHHHHH
HOTHEAD...
FUCKIN' WHAT?!?
ROCK STEADY
TELL US, HOW DOES ONE BECOME A HOMICIDAL LESBIAN TERRORIST?
HOW DOES ONE NOT, YOU ASSHOLE?!?!
WHAT FUCKING PLANET DID YOU GROW UP ON?!?
I'M NOT SORRY

HAVE A CUP OF TEA AT THE END OF A HARD DAY OF BEING BELITTLED, HUMILIATED, BERATED?
HELD DOWN, SHOVED ASI MOWED OVER, SWEPT UNDER
STIFLED, STUNTED, STEPPED ON, SNOWED...
HAWKED, STALKED, SMASHED, BASHED, CAND EVEN...
IT ON MY FACE
KILLED
HERE LIES SOME QUEER, IT DONT MATTER WHO CAUSE WE DONT CARE, AND WE'LL GET YOU, TOO!

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **scorpio_518** on **March 29, 2007, 09:14:31 PM**

All Im going to say on the matter is Im glad we've still got queer mens day mondays, wednesdays, thursdays and fridays.

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **shortlived** on **April 02, 2007, 04:57:50 PM**

Quote
This time in the lounge is in recognition of that - not only do queer wom*n have to deal with this heteronormative society, we also have to live in a patriarchal society. Men don't have to say or do anything offensive, in particular - just sometimes it is SO NICE to spend time with queer wom*n, who really understand what this feels like

Queer men haven't created the patriarchal society nor do we reinforce it in the lounge. This has stemmed FROM heteronormativity, so we aren't dominating over you: the heterosexual world is (or just the heterosexual males if that's what you want to believe). Hence the problem is out there, not in our safe space where we can all gather together and try to reverse the patriarchal society. We as queer men suffer just as much from this patriarchal society. Yes, as it currently exists it may work in our favour, but that's no reason to hate us.

Quote
the important issue is that some queer wom*n do not feel comfortable in a male dominated queer space - it simply does not reflect the reality of their own queer oppression. I, for one, never used the lounge while queer men were present. For me, the queer lounge was a queer mens lounge 5 days a week (bar one hour, which i couldn't make it to). What's wrong with giving wom*n one day out of that 5?

That's your choice if you decide to not use the lounge because men are in there. No one made you uncomfortable or kicked you out, you just felt like it was an attack on your female identity even if it was not. And we dominate it only by numbers. Funny how you only want to associate with wom*n and not with queer men. This actually alleviates us because we aren't so trivial to be selective of our friends purely on the basis of one's gender. Queer Opression? Okay - I agree there, let's base the use of the room purely around this. You'll find queer men are just as oppressed/marginalised as queer wom*n so this is a vacant argument.

And if you can find some examples of us literally vilifying wom*n or silencing them (not by your own choice simply by not being there) please... ENLIGHTEN US. Give us examples..... if you can.

Quote
A little understanding from other queers would be nice on this issue. This is a queer issue, and not a wom*ns issue, which is why it should be dealt with in the queer space

Not a wom*ns' issue? Just a queer issue? Well, since all queers are all equally marginalised (the one and only reason the lounge exists) then lets divide up the time in the lounge accordingly. Let's see... 100% of queers can use the lounge 100% of the time. Perfect, right?

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **piccolo_rocks** on **April 05, 2007, 09:58:03 AM**

What i read in submissions about providing a room for 'coloured' people was offensive too. Those who have been talking about race as being an issue are those who have made it an issue (who are mostly white by the way), to me and most of the collective, it's not an issue as most people I know, I like because of their personalities, not the colour of their skin

Title: **Re: Women's Day? (insert optional asterisks where needed)**
Post by: **freddiesboy** on **April 27, 2007, 07:29:21 PM**

Teddy that first line is completely inappropriatte. If I were you I would edit out your opening.

Jane and Heth put on a fantastic Queer Week and are trying to do what is right for the entire collective. Q Off is a very hard job and the 'wom*n's day' debate has become a very complicated issue. I am extremely worried for any non wom*n identifying student entering the Lounge on a Tuesday. But whatever is said and no matter the reaction, non wom*n identifying students now have a right to enter the Lounge on that day, excluding the wom*n's hour. Nobody can kick anybody out and security do not have the right to remove anyone. I am not expecting anyone to actually threaten anyone I am more worried that certain people supporting wom*n's day may cry, leave the Lounge forever, grafitti the place, vandalise the room, poster up death threats, ask students from different universities to join in a campaign of antipartriarchal solidarity, publicly humiliate people with a poster campaign(they have done this to people before) or try to have certain students banned from the Lounge.

Obviously I hope this does not happen.

4 out of 9 tuesdays the space has been attacked invaded o

Particular one

outside man s

with a the doo

flag drapped PRIDE

Women over hi

step over had to

they wished him if

room. to enter T

he was in last tuesda

All I wanted to thereagain

nd, do was scream.

So me and 3 other wom*ndid

just That. Went. in there and

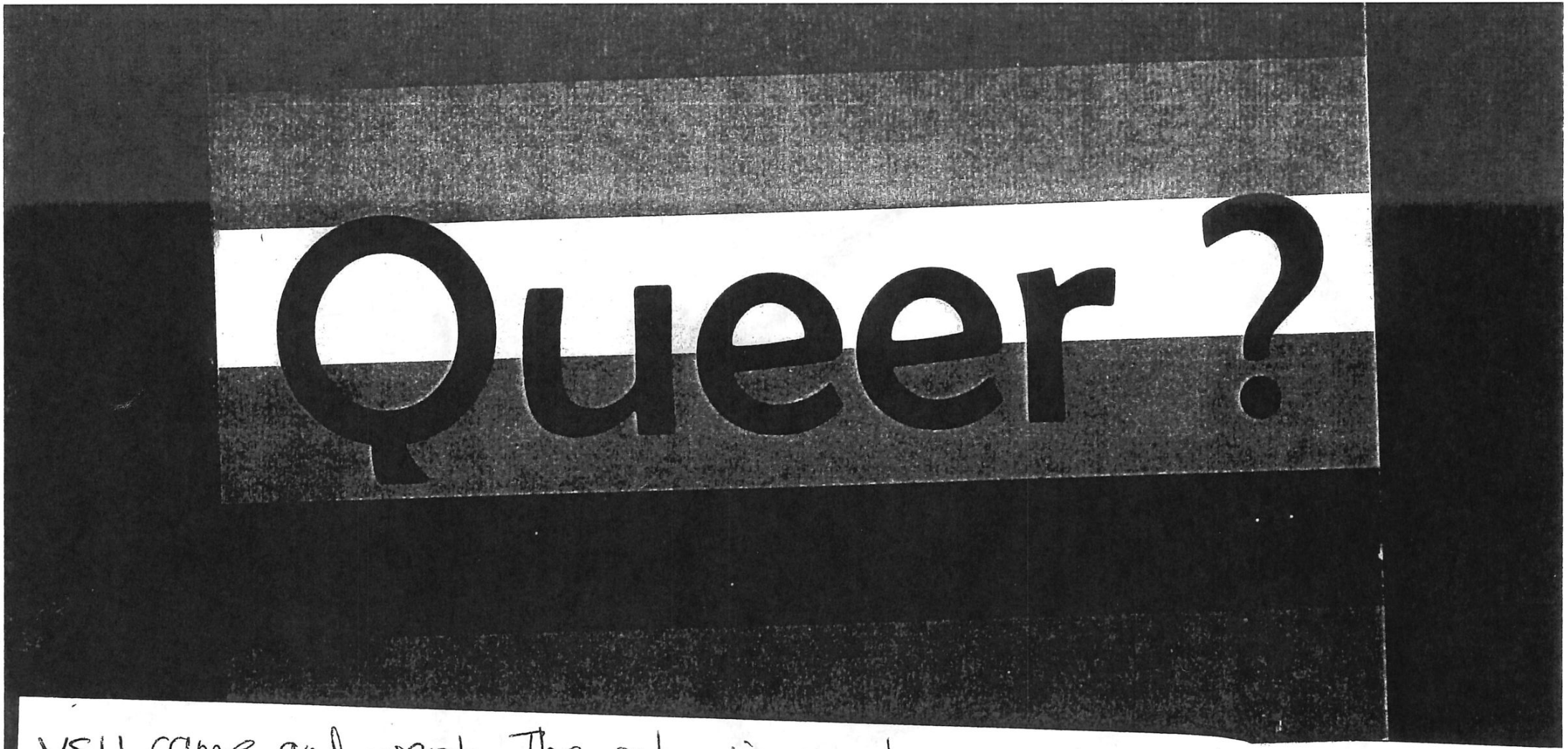
Wailed. Eventuall he left and

or an hour or two it felt

ike maybe we did have some

kind of space

ARGH



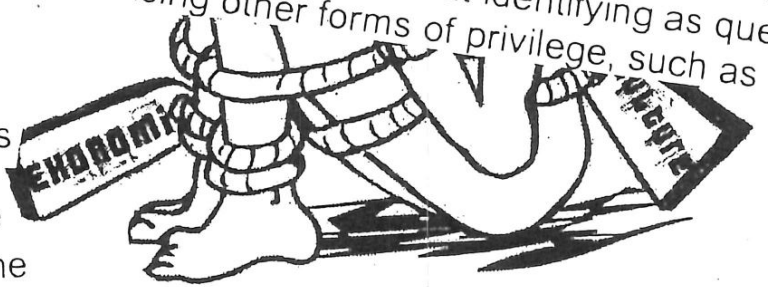
VSU came and went. The only times the people of the Queer Lounge have been politically active ~~tha~~ was last year in a racist uprising against an Indigenous woman and this year in their campaign to end womyn's Day. They certainly know how to pick their causes: one racist, the other sexist.

We whole-heartedly support the Monash queer womyn and men in their decision to request a womyn-only day within the Monash queer space. We recognise, however, that simply making the queer space womyn-only for one day will not, in itself, change the culture of the space. More and on-going strategies to combat sexism (and racism, classism, ageism, and able-ism) need to be conceptualised and implemented in conjunction with the womyn-only day.

talk at length about how sickening and disgusting they find womyn's bodies – and then justify it on the grounds of being queer men. Tl

Within queer spaces, we have heard queer men

It has been our experience that certain sections of the queer 'community' – sections which are notably male-dominated and very vocal – feel that identifying as queer automatically absolves them of possessing and exercising other forms of privilege, such as male privilege and white privilege.



The ability to prioritise queer identity is a privilege itself; as queer womyn, we do not have the choice to separate aspects of our identity, to prioritise one axis of social oppression above others

As queer womyn, whenever we patronise queer clubs or queer nights such as Q&A (to provide a popular and pertinent example), we find ourselves feeling marginalised and out of place within an overwhelmingly male-dominated space.

we get enough of that within the rest of this white supremacist heteropatriarchal society.

age 22

I'd pretty much given up on getting to be friends with girls. i mean, i knew i needed womens friendship, and that it had been missing from my life for a long time. but the thing was, it just never seemed to work out. maybe i was just too use to guys. the way we'd get to know eachother by joking around, making fun of eachother not taking things too seriously. it was awkward with girls. i expected more of them, and i was easily disapointed.

I'd decided not to worry about it for awhile, not to try to hard, not to beat myself over thehead when it didnt work. not to be too critical or too invested. I'd just moved into a house that was $\frac{3}{4}$ girls. I didnt know any of them very well.

but when they decidedwe needed a womens only space, every monday night for 3 hours in our house, i was right there fighting for it with them. i knew it was theorietically important for women to meet and organize and have their own space, even though i wasnt sure i really wanted it.

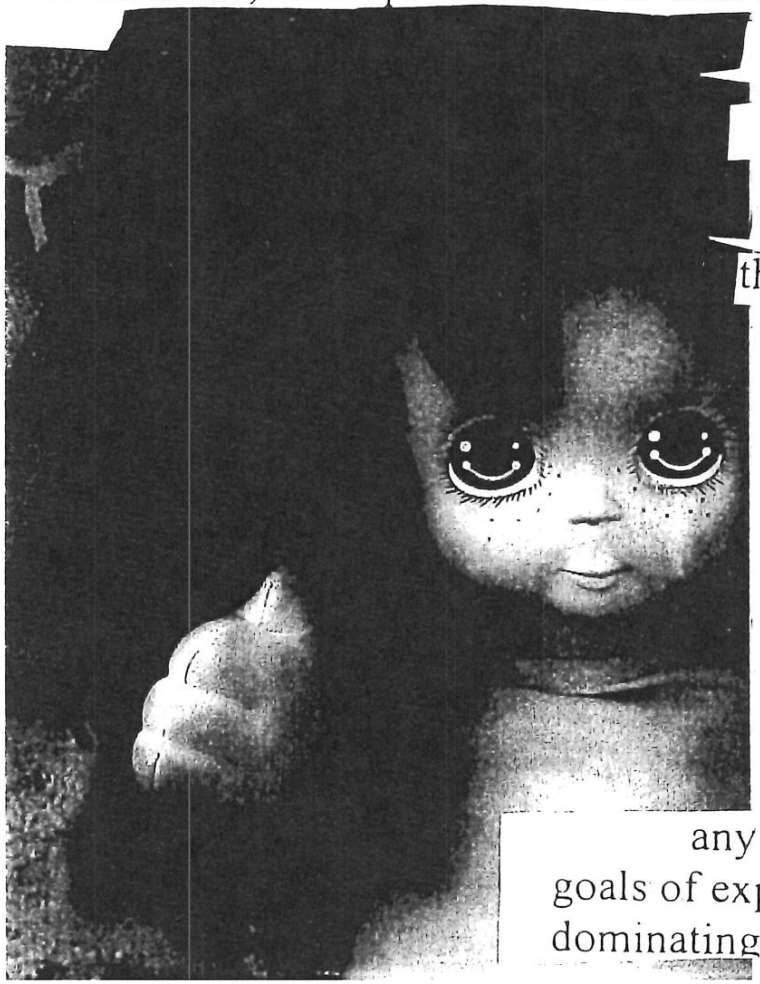
some of the guys werent that into it. why didthey have to leave the house? couldnt we meet somewhere else? and at first i thought it was a little excessive too. yeah, why couldnt the guys just stay in their rooms or in the basement while we met?

but i realized quickly it was really different with them gone. my head was clearer, i could focus better, and relax more. if guys had been in the house i would have felt the need to justify and explain what we were doing. i would have wantedsomething solid, something concrete to show them to prove that what we were doing was worthwhile. i never would have felt compfortable learning to do gynalogical exams. i never would have learned shit about my body

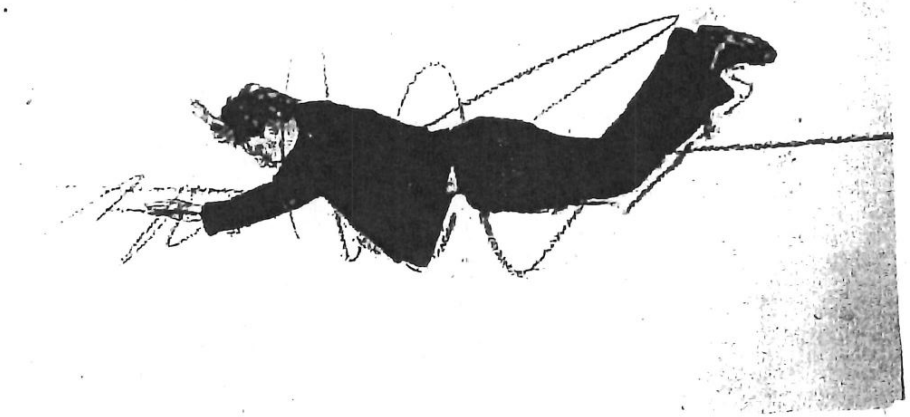
mostly we didnt do a whole lot in that group. we'd sit around andread, cook some food, work on art. alot of times we didnt eventalk much, but we all became close anyhow. even Faith, who thought womens groups were stupid and regressive, started comingout of her room and hanging out with us every week. i didnt always relate to them, and sometimes was frustrated that we didnt do more, but i learned how to have girls in my life again, and i connect with those women more than anyone before or since.

WE ♡ DORIS

the question of wether an autonomous space such as a queer space should have a day which is reserved for the use of women brings me back to the reasons such spaces exist. my understanding of the politics behind the existence of queer spaces is for the provision of a space which is not dominated by heteronormativity, or the expectation and promotion of: heterosexuality as the only 'normal' sexuality; and an opposing binary of 'woman' and 'man' as the only acceptable genders. it is a space outside of the oppressive structures of the heteronormative society in which we live. queer spaces also exist for the support and safety of queers; and the facilitation of queer community building. (outside of the vacuous and profit driven venues of pink dollar consumerism, such spaces are rarer than rubies and are, therefore, quite valuable.)



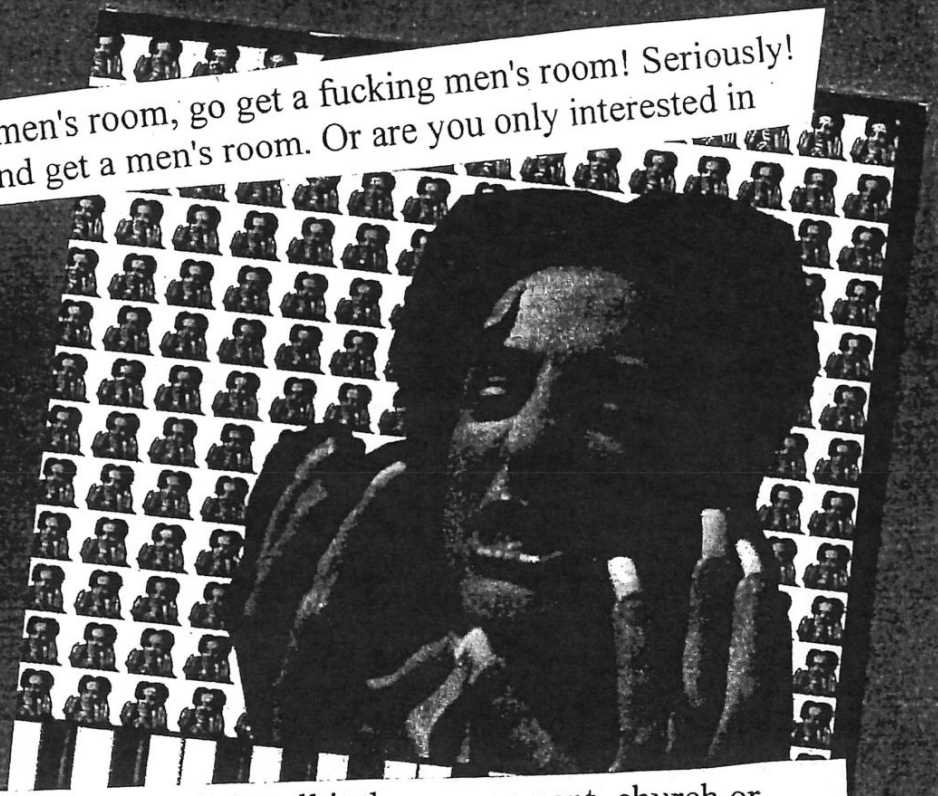
the demand for a women's day in a queer space is not 'separatist'. queer spaces exist because of the demand for spaces outside of the heterosexual space that engulfs nearly everywhere else. the parallels are obvious. queer spaces would not exist were it not for so-called 'separatism'. there is obviously no claim for a queer men's day as there are already five.



any queer space dominated by men directly undermines the queer movement's goals of exploding heterosexist gender roles (males conforming to their gender role by dominating women is no exception).

Why there is no fucking Men's Room

Look guys, if you want a men's room, go get a fucking men's room! Seriously! Stop complaining at me and get a men's room. Or are you only interested in putting me down?



When you get a men's room/boys' club (let's call it the government, church or maybe society in general) you and your mates can sit around talking about issues like the fact that there aren't enough/hardly any men in power, sexist jokes, men getting raped, men getting beaten up by their partners, or perhaps that men don't get paid as well as womyn. Maybe you can discuss how language excludes men's experiences, how men are constantly talked over and not listened to by womyn.

You can then go on to discuss all the womyn who are making you feel like an object by looking at your dick while they talk to you and call you "sexy" and "baby" and whistling at you and beeping at you in their cars or TRUCKS and how your female friends say it's your fault for showing some skin.

You can cry because a wom*n just laughed at you and called you stupid for spelling men with a y, and you can't understand why they should even care, it's not like it's hurting them, it just makes you feel good.

CCWN could skill share and work out a strategy to make it grow stronger. NOWSA was

You can tell your mates how hungry you are. That you're hungry all the time.

Then you can discuss how men are CONSTANTLY objectified in film, in the media, in advertising, in songs about men being bitches and hos and how you guys can't sleep with womyn without being called a slut.

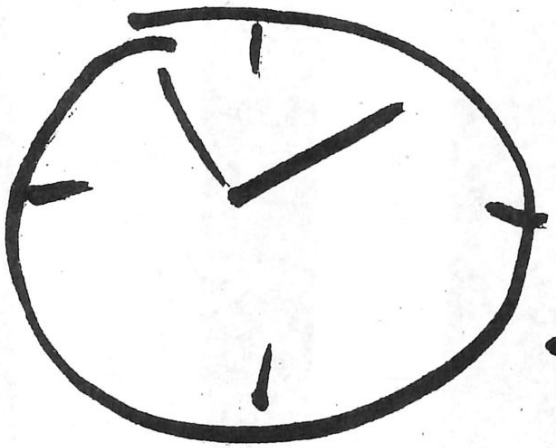
You can tell them that your girlfriend fucks you then roles over, then complains that your failure to orgasm in those five minutes makes her feel baad, thus forcing you to fake your orgasms from there on. You can discuss how your wives always expect you to do all the cooking and cleaning and most of the child raising.

You can agree it's unfair that womyn who are unmarried at 40 are players or bachelors while men who do the same are old maids.

You can confess that you have to take the pill because there is no womyn's version of the pill and your girlfriend doesn't wanna wear protection, but the pill is giving you thrush and you're constantly worried that you're pregnant which would be horrible because abortion is taboo and hard to access.

Maybe you can tell your friends about how womyn are always taking up space in your tuts and no one values the comments of the men.

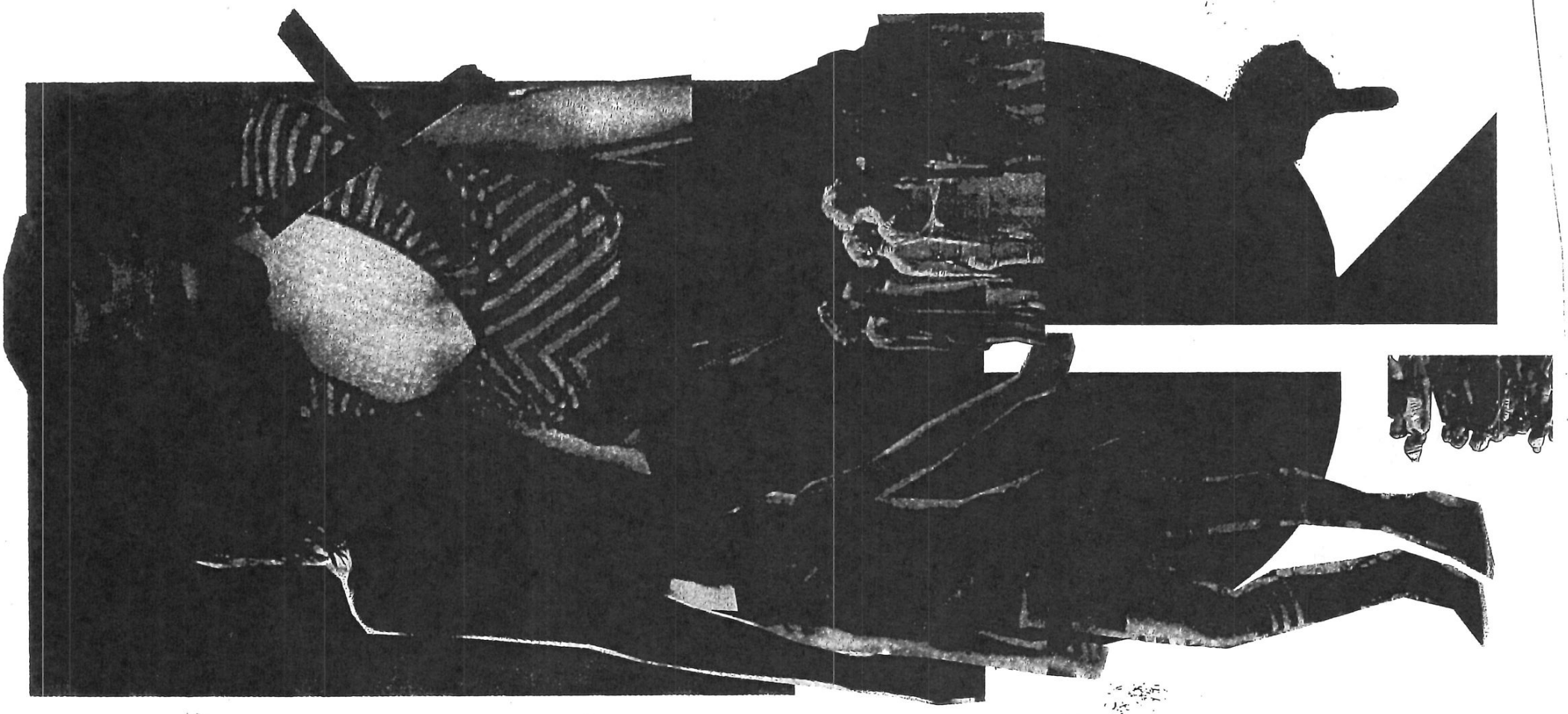
Or you could use the safe space to complain that you are still expected to work while your genitals are bleeding and your internal organs feel like they are being ripped to shreads…



Time for a feminist revolution

in hair care

Graffiti found in the monash queer space.



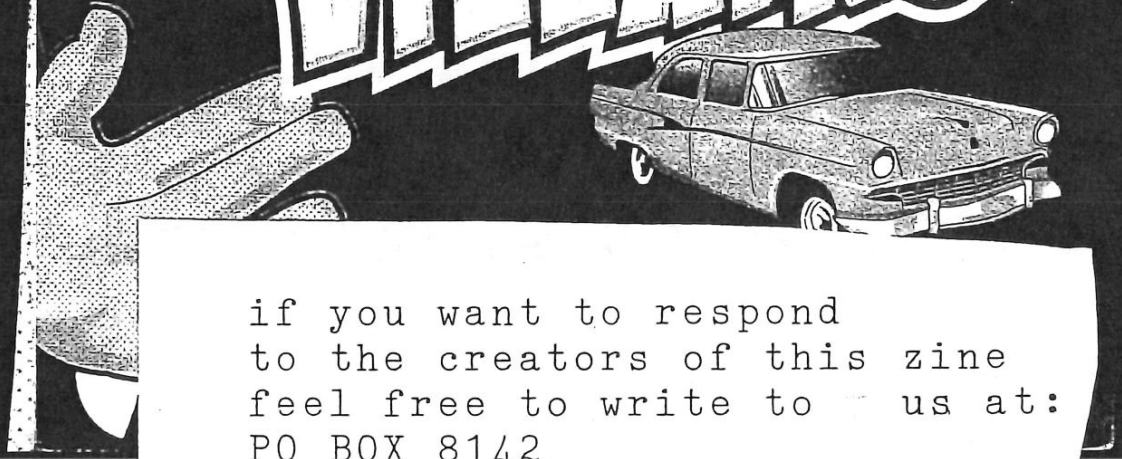
iamsickofgettingdrivenoutofspaces.iamsickofgettingdrivenoutofspac
esiamsickofgettingdrivenoutofspaces.iamsickoftegettingdrivenoutof
spaces!!!

I WISH FOR:

- Queer womyn's day to no longer be under threat
- For the queer space to be a safer space
- For the queer space to be wom*n friendly
- To continue the struggle for social justice so that there is no longer a need for queer and wom*n's spaces.

We would like to thank all those that have supported us and written to usover the past couple of months

HEROES & VILLAINS



if you want to respond
to the creators of this zine
feel free to write to us at:
PO BOX 8142
Monash University
Vic Austraila 3800

The Queen Men's Lounge*

*misogynistic women welcome!

Treading on male territory is treading on male power. Who are you stepping on?